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United Nations system support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, which provides an overview of activities undertaken by various entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) since mid-2008, is organized around the nine thematic clusters established under the regional coordination mechanism of the United Nations entities working in Africa.** The nine clusters correspond broadly to the priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme.

The report examines different dimensions of individual and collective activities initiated by entities of the United Nations system, including capacity-building and project development as well as resource mobilization. It also examines the challenges faced by the United Nations system in supporting the African Union and its NEPAD programme, especially now that African countries are witnessing the impact of the global financial and economic crisis.

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** Formerly the regional consultative mechanism.

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I. Introduction

1. At its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report to the Committee, at its forty-sixth session, and annually thereafter, on the support by the United Nations system to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) (A/60/16, para. 237). The present report responds to that request, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/257.

II. Support for the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

2. The present report sets out in detail the activities that the United Nations system has undertaken in support of the African Union and NEPAD since May 2008, drawing on inputs received from the individual entities. That support has been organized around the nine thematic clusters broadly corresponding to the priorities of the African Union and NEPAD.

A. Infrastructure development

3. The infrastructure cluster, convened by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), comprises four sub-clusters: water and sanitation; energy; information and communications technologies (ICT); and transport.

4. The water sub-cluster has developed a strategic partnership with the African Ministers' Council on Water, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the NEPAD secretariat. It has aligned its activities with the continent's agenda on water and sanitation. During the reporting period, the water sub-cluster contributed to the organization of the African Ministers' Council on Water Conference and the meeting of the technical Advisory Committee on Water held in Addis Ababa in October 2008. The meetings were jointly convened by AfDB and UN-Water/Africa in cooperation with the African Union Commission with the objective to: (a) chart the way forward to implement major declarations and commitments on water and sanitation; (b) consider strategies for an effective preparatory process and participation in the fifth World Water Forum (Istanbul, March 2009); and (c) examine the organizational arrangements for the second African Water Week.

5. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), supports capacity-building initiatives for the planning of water-related national strategies and infrastructure development, providing technical assistance and advisory services in the development and implementation of integrated water resources management plans, and the promotion of water provision and energy services for rural poverty reduction. Recent beneficiaries include Ethiopia, Mauritania and Togo.

6. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) helps African countries to design and implement national strategies for the management of ground and surface water resources. In partnership with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and UNDP, IAEA is supporting two major regional projects on the Nubian aquifer and

the Nile basin. The latter project will explore the contribution of groundwater to water balances in lakes, rivers and wetlands by enhancing national and regional capacity to add a "groundwater dimension" to joint management of the Nile basin and ensure a common understanding of groundwater issues and analysis among the riparian countries.

7. The World Bank's assistance to NEPAD includes lending to specific regional projects, under the NEPAD Infrastructure Short-Term Action Plan. Much advocacy work has been done in mobilizing resources for scaling up donor support to the development of regional infrastructure, in the context of the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa. Various NEPAD priority projects have been or are expected to be approved by the Bank's Board during fiscal year 2009, including: additional financing for the Southern Africa Power Market and the West Africa Power Pool (phase II); three ICT programmes (Regional Communications Infrastructure Programme — phase II (Rwanda) and phase III (Malawi, Mozambique and the United Republic of Tanzania) and Central Africa Backbone Programme — phase I); and the East Africa Agricultural Productivity Programme.

8. In energy, the sub-cluster activities are based on the African Union and NEPAD priorities, including direct assistance to these two bodies, for example, in the formulation of the Africa Energy Vision 2030 and in capacity-building for regional integration. In ICT, the sub-cluster played an important role in the adoption by the African Union of the African Regional Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy as its ICT action plan.

9. In the area of sustainable energy development, IAEA continues to transfer to African countries energy planning models for integrated energy planning, preparation for the expansion of least-cost electricity systems, financial analysis, quantification of environmental burdens, estimation of external costs, and multicriteria decision analysis. Several African countries are seeking IAEA assistance to study the feasibility of introducing nuclear power in their national energy mix.

10. Since access to affordable energy is central to growth and poverty reduction, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) concentrated its efforts in promoting small hydro and other forms of renewable energy. With the financial support of GEF, UNIDO is responsible for a West Africa regional programme that addresses the energy challenges of countries by promoting renewable energy and energy efficiency projects, focusing on scaling-up energy access based on renewable energy, and by promoting energy efficiency measures in the industrial and public sectors.

11. The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) security audits continue to make a positive contribution to the development of national aviation expertise. After completing its first cycle of audits in 2007, a second cycle of the audit programme started in 2008, with a focus on a State's capability to provide appropriate national oversight of its aviation security activities. ICAO is also assisting countries in their efforts to resolve the deficiencies found in the ICAO safety oversight and security audits. The Africa-Indian Ocean Regional Air Navigation meeting, held in South Africa in November 2008, offered an opportunity to strengthen region-wide commitment to addressing safety issues and developing a comprehensive programme for the implementation of air navigation facilities and services.

12. Responding to the New Partnership's emphasis on maritime security, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has provided technical assistance on maritime and port security to a number of countries. Needs assessment missions were sent to Angola in July 2008 and to Mauritius in September 2008. The purpose was to examine with the national authorities the arrangements adopted by the respective countries to implement and enforce, at the national level, the mandatory security provisions in the IMO Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea and the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code. A meeting to finalize and adopt the updated maritime code, and its related domestic legislation of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community was organized in the Congo. Equatorial Guinea, Namibia and Togo have received assistance in developing their respective domestic maritime legislation.

B. Governance

13. The governance cluster promotes the African Peer Review Mechanism and is organized around two sub-themes: political governance, and economic and corporate governance. As the convener of the cluster, during 2008 UNDP provided financial support to the regional coordination mechanism and organized an inter-agency meeting to identify joint activities.

14. UNDP established a trust fund to provide support to the operations of the African Peer Review Mechanism Panel and secretariat, country review missions, and experience sharing. UNDP will also fund the strategic plan of the African Peer Review Mechanism which was approved in January 2008 by the African Peer Review Panel and Forum. As of November 2008, contributions to the trust fund totalled $13 million, including $2.7 million from UNDP and contributions from Algeria, Canada, Lesotho, Malawi, Senegal, Spain, Switzerland and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom (DFID). An agreement for a European Union contribution of 2.3 million euros has been finalized.

15. UNDP technical and administrative support to the African Peer Review Mechanism focused on launching the Mechanism in 14 countries, the completion of the reviews of four countries in 2008; the review of methodologies for costing the National Programme of Action and national self-assessment processes, and monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Mechanism. UNDP provided advisory and technical assistance to five country offices on various governance issues such as the electoral system and public service reform.

16. In 2008, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provided support to the Pan African Conference of Ministers of Local Government by organizing in Cameroon a conference entitled "From policy to implementation: challenges and strategies for effective implementation of decentralized governance in Africa", and a seminar on the theme "Strengthening women's leadership in local government for effective decentralized governance and poverty reduction in Africa: roles, challenges and strategies". The Department, European regional assemblies and local governments in Africa are collaborating within the Euro-African Partnerships for Decentralized Governance project, supported by funds from the Regional Assembly of Tuscany (Italy), to strengthen the capacities of local governments through decentralized cooperation.

17. ECA has been providing guidance for the review of the African Peer Review Mechanism methodology and instruments, advocating for the integration of the National Programme of Action into the national development strategies, and providing a strategic financing framework for the National Programme of Action.

18. At a conference co-organized by the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and the United Nations University, Office at the United Nations, New York on the topic "The governance dimension of the Millennium Development Goals in Africa" in May 2008, the Office of the Special Adviser organized a panel discussion on the Challenges of Increased Aid to Africa. The panel discussed measures for African and donor countries and the international organizations to help to ensure the effective use of scaled-up aid and to strengthen its positive impact on growth and poverty reduction.

19. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in collaboration with the United Nations University co-organized a side event on the theme "The governance challenge in Africa" during the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs. The event was co-sponsored by the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and ECA. Participants reiterated that good governance and development reinforced each other and good governance was therefore essential for durable peace and sustainable development, which were among the critical challenges facing countries in Africa.

20. UNIFEM strengthened its efforts to increase women's voice in peace negotiations in line with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security. UNAIDS and ECA worked closely to finalize the report of the Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance, which was inaugurated in 2003 by the Secretary-General. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and ECA are developing a policy strategy for the implementation of recommendations of that Commission on HIV/AIDS and Governance at the country level.

C. Peace and security

21. The peace and security cluster convened by the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat comprises three sub-clusters: peace and security architecture of the African Union; post-conflict reconstruction and development; and human rights, justice and reconciliation. In 2008, the Peacebuilding Support Office joined the cluster in order to improve United Nations coordination for peacebuilding with the African Union and other African regional institutions.

22. Within the sub-cluster on the African Union peace and security architecture, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations-African Union peacekeeping support team continued to support the African Union in the areas of training, mission planning, military, police, information technology/communications and finances. In particular, the support focused on the development of the African Union Peace Support Operations Division and the capacity of the regional economic communities to operationalize the African Standby Force.

23. Through the sub-cluster on post-conflict reconstruction and development, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) supported the preparation of the African Union draft convention on internal displacement and assisted the African Union in organizing the first summit on forced population displacement. The sub-cluster engaged in efforts to strengthen collaboration with the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission in organizing the first annual meeting of the Peacebuilding Community of Practice; the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office in its efforts to develop a United Nations Practical Guidance Note on Peacebuilding to take into consideration the African Union's continental post-conflict reconstruction and development policy; and the African Union Peace and Security Council to achieve the African Union's post-conflict reconstruction, humanitarian policy framework and development-related objectives.

24. The sub-cluster on human rights, justice and reconciliation promoted further harmonization of plans between the African Union and the United Nations in the field of human rights, justice and reconciliation and also addressed health, gender, culture and regional integration.

25. The Department of Political Affairs continued to provide support to regional and subregional organizations in the areas of conflict prevention, crisis management and conflict resolution. Within the framework of the African Union's 10-year capacity-building programme, the Department finalized the 2009 work programme on strengthening African Union mediation capacities and supported the newly established Electoral Assistance Unit of the African Union. The first Department of Political Affairs-African Union consultative meeting on prevention and management of conflicts was held in Ethiopia in July 2008 to reach a better understanding of the operations, organizational structure, procedures of each organization, and also to come up with ideas on increasing cooperation and the flow of information between them.

26. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs has launched a project on strengthening national capacity for the integration of sustainable development principles into development strategies in countries emerging from conflict, which aims at assisting Governments in post-conflict situations in their efforts to create a path towards sustainable development and lasting peace. Project activities will focus on adapting and developing methodologies related to the process, content, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development strategies in countries emerging from conflict, testing their applicability and making them available to all interested countries. The project will be implemented in cooperation with various United Nations entities and country teams.

D. Agriculture, food security and rural development

27. This cluster contributes to the efforts to increase food security and agricultural development in Africa, through supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP). Working with other United Nations organizations and partners, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to provide support to the Pillar 3 Reference Group and Partnership Platform Forum.

28. Collaborative effort has resulted in a significant harmonization in donor support for CAADP processes and investment programmes leading to the establishment of a trust fund mechanism at the World Bank. The current pledges amount to approximately $65 million. The trust fund will support development and implementation of CAADP processes, as well as development and implementation of CAADP pillar programmes and the institutions responsible for them at continental, subregional, national and local levels. The Bank signed an agreement in September 2008 with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to commit $15 million to the fund.

29. The High-Level Conference on World Food Security, organized by FAO in collaboration with WFP and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in Rome in June 2008, made a significant contribution to promoting the CAADP agenda and mobilizing resources for its implementation. Bilateral and multilateral donors as well as international and regional financial institutions committed about $11 billion to assist Governments in implementing programmes to mitigate the impact of soaring food prices. That amount was in addition to the $14.1 billion pledged before and after the Conference. Africa will be the main beneficiary.

30. Furthermore, FAO, WFP, IFAD, the World Bank, AfDB and bilateral and multilateral donors assisted the NEPAD secretariat and the African Union to organize, in June 2008, a workshop on food security with the objective of assisting 18 African countries to identify needs induced by soaring food prices, and to propose practical solutions. The workshop was a milestone in identifying a coordinated agriculture and food and nutrition security response, in the short, medium, and long term within the framework of CAADP.

31. Within the United Nations Comprehensive Framework for Action adopted in response to the global food price escalation, FAO continued to collaborate with WFP, IFAD, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Bank and AfDB in the fight against global food insecurity. During the reporting period, assessment missions have been undertaken to formulate short-, medium- and long-term interventions to mitigate the immediate effects of high food prices and achieve sustainable food security and agriculture development in the most affected countries.

32. Thanks to FAO collaboration with IFAD, WFP and the World Bank in the preparatory process of the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in Japan in May 2008, CAADP featured high on the agenda of the Conference. The partners also organized a side event on the challenges and opportunities of high food prices.

33. WFP support continued to focus around CAADP Pillar 3 on key NEPAD priority areas, including, inter alia: (a) boosting agricultural production by providing market access to locally produced food to support school feeding and health programmes; (b) leveraging the WFP local food procurement capacity to enhance market access for smallholder farmers; and (c) promoting food and nutritional security through trade in staple foods and enhancing resilience to food crises through establishing reliable national and regional food-reserve systems.

34. The efforts of UNIDO efforts in promoting agro-industries had the objective of stimulating local production capabilities and opening of market channels for African

products. A new agri-enterprise development project for eight West African countries is expected to replicate the success of the Songhai Centre in Benin in promoting integrated agri-business, poverty alleviation and economic growth. Also in West Africa, Nigeria and Cameroon are being assisted to maximize the potential of the oil palm. The pilot project on increased farm income from banana-based beverages will benefit the countries bordering Lake Victoria, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

35. The IAEA technical cooperation programme in the area of food and agriculture has provided support to African countries through several national and regional projects aimed at enhancing crop productivity, soil and water management, and pest control. The supported activities cover the application of radiation and isotopes in pest control with special emphasis on tsetse eradication, crop improvement, improving livestock productivity through artificial insemination and feed supplementation.

E. Industry, trade and market access

36. At its inaugural meeting in May 2007, the cluster identified the following priorities: joint policy analysis; mobilization of investments; joint analysis of institutional capacities; investments for industrial development; development of common indicators; and analysis of supply chain constraints. UNIDO, as the convener of the cluster, worked with NEPAD and the African Union Commission in drafting the workplan for the cluster adopted in November 2008.

37. The African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat and the Government of South Africa, with the cooperation of UNIDO, organized the eighteenth meeting of the African Ministers of Industry, in South Africa in October 2008, which articulated the Implementation Strategy for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa. The strategy includes seven clusters: industrial policy; upgrading and modernization; infrastructure development; enhancement of industrial skills; promotion of innovation and technology; mobilization of resources; and promotion of sustainable industrial development.

38. Moreover, UNIDO initiated in 2008 a comprehensive analysis to generate new strategies and actions to support Africa's industrial development efforts, diversify its internationally tradeable products, and significantly increase its share of global exports of manufactured products and global manufacturing. Results from the study will feed into the high-level agro-industries summit to be organized in Nigeria in 2009. Results and recommendations from the study and summit will provide inputs for the promulgation of strategies and actions to support the African Union Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa.

39. The Integrated Framework on Trade-Related Technical Assistance enables the least developed countries to work with six agencies (the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNDP, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization (WTO)) and development partners to ensure that national trade policies are integrated into their respective development strategies. The benefits of the Enhanced Integrated Framework are currently being accorded to 32 African least developed countries. In October 2008, the Executive Secretariat of the Enhanced Integrated Framework became operational. The United Nations Office for Project

Services started its operations as trust fund manager of the Framework. Donors have transferred to UNOPS funds which they pledged at the Conference for the Enhanced Integrated Framework in September 2007. The interim Enhanced Integrated Framework Board is working towards ensuring that implementation of concrete projects deriving from the Framework mechanism start as soon as possible. A number of African LDCs are in the process of preparing project proposals for funding.

40. In 2008, the main objective of the World Trade Organization and partners in their work on Aid for Trade was to shift the emphasis to monitoring and implementation of Aid for Trade initiatives with a focus on country, regional and sectoral priorities. In preparation for the global Aid for Trade review in July 2009, country questionnaires aimed at helping developing countries identify their needs and priorities have been sent to countries along with aid flow data collected by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), with a view to identifying national or regional gaps in infrastructure and trade capacity.

41. Between July 2008 and June 2009, the World Trade Organization has undertaken over 120 national and more than 20 regional activities in Africa, focusing on building human and institutional capacity related to multilateral trade issues. African countries also benefit from various World Trade Organization training activities including training courses for government officials, the regional trade policy courses and the intensive courses on trade negotiations skills.

42. In the preparatory process for the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, in June 2008, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States organized an African regional review meeting at ECA headquarters. The outcome document contains action-oriented measures with the objective, inter alia, to ensure uniform and effective implementation of regional and subregional instruments by member countries, reduce rent-seeking behaviour and port and border delays that contribute significantly to transit costs, enhance the participation of relevant national and regional private sector associations in facilitation efforts, strengthen the capacity of Governments to design and implement public-private partnership agreements, and improve the layout of infrastructure at borders and introduce shared facilities.

43. UNCTAD continues to support countries in implementing the objectives of NEPAD through activities to help them integrate beneficially into the international trading system. Some of the key areas include strengthening trade policies of African countries and their institutional and human resources capacities. UNCTAD provided support on the impact of the World Trade Organization Doha agenda negotiations on their trade and development interests.

44. The 2008 edition of the UNCTAD publication *Economic Development in Africa Report* shows that export performance of countries has been weak despite trade liberalization, partly owing to the lack of complementary policies that tackle structural, institutional and socio-economic constraints that restrain supply response to export opportunities. The report argues that countries should adopt sector-specific policies in agriculture and manufacturing to tackle these constraints. These should not only seek to increase exports but seek to improve productive capacities and productivity.

45. UNCTAD also intensified its technical assistance in collecting and harmonizing data on foreign direct investment and activities of transnational corporations. The first Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)/UNCTAD Regional Workshop on the Common Survey on Foreign Direct Investment/Transnational Corporation Statistics was held in August 2008 to prepare a survey on foreign direct investment flows and stocks and activities of foreign affiliates of transnational corporations that will be commonly used in COMESA, or become the basis of the survey used in each member State. In addition, national workshops are being held for the COMESA States.

46. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is helping African countries in integrating intellectual property in national development programmes and in formulating appropriate strategies and plans to exploit intellectual property for sustainable development. Intellectual property strategies and development plans have been or are in the process of being formulated in a number of African countries. The technical assistance of WIPO seeks to enhance the capacity of countries in planning for intellectual property development, human resources development and enhancing professional capabilities and building tools for small and medium enterprises. The Interregional Forum on Service and Development-Oriented Intellectual Property Administration, held in June 2008, provided a good occasion to share experiences on intellectual property management.

47. Building on its work on private sector's contribution in the implementation of NEPAD, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa conducted a study on economic diversification in Africa. The study focused on four target countries (Angola, Kenya, South Africa and Tunisia) and analysed the factors driving economic diversification, with a particular focus on government and the private sector leadership in promoting diversified economic activity. The conclusions of the study will be reviewed at an expert group meeting scheduled for fall 2009.

F. Environment, population and urbanization

48. This cluster aims to promote sustainable development in Africa. the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and other United Nations entities, continued to extend support to NEPAD priorities highlighted in the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative, covering the following sectors and cross-cutting issues: combating land degradation, drought and desertification; wetlands; invasive species; marine and coastal resources; climate change; and cross-border conservation of natural resources.

49. In addition, UNEP, as the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, continues to support the implementation of the decisions of the Conference and its work programme, which is an integral part of the Action Plan for the Environment Initiative of NEPAD. One of the main outcomes of the twelfth session of the Conference, held in June 2008, was its decision on climate change; namely: (a) Africa's preparations for developing a common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012; and (b) a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes. Following this decision, preliminary discussions on the development of Africa's common position on climate change have been held with various stakeholders.

50. UNEP with other United Nations entities have worked together to support the implementation of the work programme of the African Ministers' Council on Water. In 2008, UNEP developed a project to build the capacity and improve resilience of countries to cope with water stress and adapt to climate change. The project, supported by China, has four components, namely: rainwater harvesting; reuse of waste water for forest plantation irrigation; a drought early warning system and adaptation to drought; and sustainable transboundary ecosystem management for Lake Tanganyika. The geographical coverage of the project includes Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Kenya, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Morocco, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

51. UN-Habitat, in cooperation with the African Union, has been convening annually a conference for African Ministers responsible for housing and urban development. The last such conference was organized in July 2008 in Nigeria, with the aim of developing a common position on human settlements and interventions for dealing with the manifestations and consequences of unsustainable urban growth and urban poverty. The conference committed to intensify efforts to improve the funding for slum-upgrading, affordable housing and urban development.

52. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) continued its awareness-raising activities among policymakers on the impact of environment and climate change on population displacement. It has also continued to participate in a number of research projects in the area of migration and the environment, including by conducting case studies in a number of regions to explore the extent to which environmental factors play a role in the decision to migrate.

G. Social and human development

53. The cluster has strengthened coordination and collaboration between its members, including on: the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights; the Year of the African Youth; the sixth African Development Forum; the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; and the African Union Summit on Water and Sanitation. The cluster also provided technical support to the African Union Commission to develop a social policy framework for Africa. These activities were implemented jointly with the African Union Commission, the peace and security cluster and the water sub-cluster of the infrastructure cluster. In 2008, the cluster organized a retreat to review and better align the cluster activities with African Union priorities.

54. The first Inter-Ministerial Conference on Health and Environment in Africa was jointly organized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNEP and hosted by the Government of Gabon, in August 2008. The Conference was aimed at securing political commitment for an integrated approach to policy and the institutional and investment changes required to reduce environmental threats to health. WHO and UNEP are expected to help countries in sharing experiences, developing capacity, and establishing a mechanism to monitor progress towards the fulfilment of the commitments made at this Conference.

55. UNAIDS provided technical support to the African Union Commission, to produce the first comprehensive Compendium[1] of continental and global commitments on HIV/AIDS. The Compendium comprises 27 global commitments on HIV, 24 continental commitments of the African Union and 8 regional commitments. It is expected that the Compendium will contribute to ensuring a wider dissemination and internalization of these commitments and facilitate follow-up, monitoring and periodic evaluation aimed at better performance.

56. WHO has strengthened child and adolescent health through partnerships with the African Union, UNICEF, the World Bank, DFID, USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Ford Foundation. WHO has contributed to the strengthening of the health systems for the delivery of immunization services and any other health services that can be integrated with partners such as UNICEF, Rotary International, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia, and USAID by providing technical assistance, building the capacity of the human resource base in countries and contributing to the infrastructure, including immunization materials, and so forth.

57. WHO, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), supported the Third Session of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Health, where the African Health Strategy 2007-2015 was reviewed and approved along with the Johannesburg Declaration, in which ministers of health reaffirmed existing regional and continental policies and plans of actions. Regional economic communities were supported in planning the reproductive health commodity security, and technical support was provided for the assessment of HIV/AIDS, women and girls in conflict and post-conflict countries.

58. IOM has continued to develop its long-standing initiatives (e.g., the Migration for Development in Africa programme) to reduce the effects of the so-called brain drain by engaging the African diaspora communities in development activities of their countries of origin. Also, IOM in collaboration with World University Services initiated a programme on the theme "Migration and higher education: developing skills and capacity", aimed at building a critical mass of trained human resources in migration management in selected African universities. This project will establish a network of African researchers in the diaspora and promote twinning with universities in the north and south to revise, upgrade or develop teaching curriculum in migration management.

H. Science and technology

59. The cluster supports the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, which was adopted by the African Union Summit held in Addis Ababa in January 2007.

60. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has launched the African Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Initiative to build capacities in science, technology and innovation policy

[1] The Compendium puts together global and African declarations, resolutions and positions adopted between 1987 and 2007, at summits of heads of State and Government, United Nations General Assembly special sessions on high-level meetings, conferences of ministers of health, regional meetings of United Nations system agencies and civil society organizations.

formulation and development of national science, technology and innovation policies for all African countries. To foster the implementation of cultural policies in Africa and in line with the aspirations of the African Regional Action Plan for the Knowledge Economy, the African Virtual Campus project was developed as a continuation of the complementary efforts between the African Union Commission, the European Union and UNESCO. The need to train large numbers of science teachers cannot be achieved using traditional teacher training methods. UNESCO and IOM are using contemporary ICTs to enhance the capacity of African countries to train teachers of science, engineering and technology through e-learning means of an African Virtual Campus.

61. In support of the objectives of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action and within the project on International Partnerships for New and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable Development, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provided support to Ghana and Senegal in developing master plans and road maps for science and technology parks. The project also involves disseminating information on the establishment of such parks; and increasing awareness of the contributions these technologies can make to supporting sustainable development and the role international partnerships can play in technology transfer.

62. Within the framework of the intergovernmental African Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology, IAEA supports African countries in their efforts to strengthen the utilization of nuclear science and technology in peaceful applications. Projects cover regional priority activities such as sustainable energy development, human health, nutrition and the prevention of communicable diseases, livestock production and animal disease control, crop improvement, industrial quality control, management of coastal zones, training on communications technology platforms, nuclear technology and nuclear security, radiation safety and networking between African regulators.

I. Communications, advocacy and outreach

63. The advocacy and communications cluster, chaired by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, aims to promote advocacy and support for NEPAD at the international, continental and regional levels.

64. During the reporting period, the cluster sponsored the organization of a Regional Media Dialogue for senior media officials, which aimed through interactive discussion between journalists and other NEPAD stakeholders to facilitate greater awareness and improved media coverage of the NEPAD programme. The Dialogue, held in The Vaal, South Africa in February 2009, was jointly funded by UNDP, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA, and supported by financial and other contributions from Germany, the NEPAD secretariat and the Department of Public Information.

65. Participants agreed on key recommendations for further action and the consensus document. The Vaal Consensus recognized the pivotal role of the media in the overall development of Africa and urged the African Union Commission, the NEPAD and the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariats, United Nations entities and other development partners to open active channels of communication,

to facilitate information exchange, and to work towards the strengthening of the African media for genuine citizen journalism.

66. In line with recommendations of the eighth meeting of the regional coordination mechanism, the Regional Media Dialogue was the subject to a formal evaluation which will be submitted in the cluster's annual report. Additionally, information about the Dialogue was shared with the other eight clusters and a follow-up dialogue is planned during the forthcoming biennium.

67. ECA established the knowledge-networking platform in July 2008 and enabled e-discussion around the regional coordination mechanism thematic areas for increased coordination and collaboration. Currently, there is an ongoing e-discussion on the theme "Integration of NEPAD into the processes and structures of the African Union", organized in response to the request of the African Union Commission/NEPAD Coordinating Unit. The platform is used to facilitate and enhance knowledge-sharing and collaboration among and between clusters.

68. The Department of Public Information continued to cover NEPAD in its quarterly magazine *Africa Renewal* through stories on infrastructure, domestic resource mobilization, agricultural development and other priorities. A special edition of the magazine on NEPAD was produced for targeted distribution to the media, academics, civil society groups and others.

III. Policy issues in the implementation of the New Partnership

A. Strengthening of the cluster system and impact of United Nations system support

69. The past year has seen further progress in enhancing the overall coordination of United Nations support to the African Union and its NEPAD programme. ECA has been proactive in terms of follow-up on the implementation of regional coordination mechanism recommendations, facilitating networking and consultations.

70. The ninth meeting of the regional coordination mechanism provided the opportunity to build on the achievements of the previous meeting and deepen partnerships with the African Union Commission, AfDB, regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat. The mechanism process has benefited from increased and high-level participation of the United Nations system agencies and African regional and subregional organizations. The chairing of the regional coordination mechanism meetings by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General was a major achievement, as well as the co-chairing of meetings by African regional and subregional organizations.

71. At the ninth meeting, participants discussed issues regarding the following four main points: (a) improved governance structure of clusters; (b) enhanced coherence, harmonization and synergy; (c) strengthened capacity at the level of regional and subregional organizations; and (d) improved commitment and leadership at the highest level.

72. Notably, the meeting emphasized the need for clusters to establish a governance structure including the designation of co-convenors to support the

convenor and establish reporting modalities and follow-up mechanisms for joint activities. More importantly, the meeting reiterated the importance of cluster progress reports which would continue to feature measurable benchmarks of achievement, major challenges, and lessons learned.

73. Enhanced coherence, harmonization and synergy of policies and activities were recognized by the regional coordination mechanism as being central for the effectiveness of the cluster system. The policy frameworks, priorities and strategic plans of the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat are expected to serve as the guiding principle for cluster support. Where there is no clear policy framework, clusters might assist the African Union Commission, regional economic communities and the NEPAD secretariat in clarifying and defining issues and proposals and by directly involving relevant stakeholders.

74. The regional coordination mechanism recognized that effective implementation of cluster activities depends on the capacities of the various stakeholders. Many regional and subregional institutions have limited capacity to undertake multifaceted and complex cluster programmes and activities. Thus, there is a strong need for coordinated United Nations-wide support in the areas of capacity-building in support of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD secretariat, the regional economic communities and other African organizations. There was a clear consensus at the meeting that the mechanism requires a high level commitment and leadership at all levels.

75. All clusters are considering ways of undertaking joint activities within clusters and between clusters. They are preparing multi-year business plans to pave the way for clusters to work together around joint activities and programmes. Cluster meetings have become more structured and more regular.

76. Cluster activities are having tangible impacts on the implementation of key regional development agenda and on the institutional landscape in support of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. Initiatives such as the Year of the African Youth; African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; African Union Summit on Water and Sanitation; activities on internally displaced persons; inter-agency meetings on coordination and harmonization of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria policies and strategies; CAADP; science and technology policies, joint annual meetings of the African Union and ECA; the fourth African Development Forum; and the sixtieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights are good examples of strong interactions, strengthened coordination and collaboration between the mechanism clusters on the one hand, and between the latter and relevant departments of the African Union Commission on the other. The focus on emerging issues of food crisis and climate change will sharpen the focus of cluster activities and improve coordination and interaction.

77. The impact of United Nations system support is apparent in many areas. In particular, FAO efforts combined with those of other partners have contributed to mobilizing political and financial support to CAADP and brought agriculture back in the development agenda. The advocacy and support activities of UNHCR and the sub-cluster on post-conflict reconstruction and development have helped advance various initiatives of the African Union, in particular the development of a draft convention for internally displaced persons on the continent and the organization of a first African Union special summit on forced population displacement in Africa.

The developing synergies between the African Union Peace and Security Council, the Peacebuilding Support Office and sub-cluster on post-conflict reconstruction and development are also strengthening support for the recovery of countries emerging from conflicts. Similarly, the support of UNEP and its partners has contributed to the operationalization of the action plan for the environment initiative of NEPAD.

B. Support to mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the New Partnership

78. UNCTAD is currently finalizing the draft policy handbook on enhancing the role of domestic financial resources in Africa's development. The handbook will be used as the main guidelines at regional seminars in the second half of 2009 for officials responsible for domestic financial resource mobilization. In 2008, UNCTAD supported the operational and strategic debt management of 21 African countries. Through the provision of a set of proven solutions for public debt management, including its specialized Debt Management Financial and Analysis System software, for the recording and monitoring of these countries' debt, the programme contributed to the strengthening of the capacity of the countries to manage their public liabilities and to produce reliable debt statistics for policymaking purposes.

79. IMF is working with international partners to promote growth and poverty reduction in low-income African countries. The operational contexts of this support are the national poverty-reduction strategies, which call for improved domestic policies, and the mobilization of domestic and external resources, including debt relief, for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. IMF is focusing on its areas of expertise which are in fiscal, monetary, and exchange rate policies, as well as on other reforms and institutions relevant to macroeconomic stability. IMF has also assisted development efforts in Africa through direct financial support and debt relief.

80. FAO continued to provide financial support to NEPAD, the African Union Commission, and regional economic communities to support implementation of the CAADP agenda. The biggest proportion of these resources is dedicated to institutional capacity-building, but a significant proportion is dedicated to cover the operational expenses of the benefiting institutions including organizing training activities, meetings and workshops.

81. To mitigate the impact of high food prices, WFP launched an Emergency Market Mitigation Account initiative as part of a unified response and allocated a total of $181 million to 18 priority countries in Africa alone to assist Governments to meet the urgent call for high food price assistance through new and enhanced social safety nets.

82. IFAD is supporting Pan-African initiatives through two grants for a total of $400,000. The African Enterprise Challenge Fund is a multi-donor grant instrument created to test new business models that will expand market opportunities for the poor, especially in rural areas, and the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism aims to boost the use of fertilizers across the continent and help to trigger a green revolution in Africa.

83. UNHCR made monetary contributions of $170,000 to support the development of an African Union draft convention on internally displaced persons, and an additional $350,000 to support the organization of the African Union Special Summit on forced displacement.

84. Mobilizing adequate financial resources is a prerequisite to the effective implementation of the African Union/NEPAD programme. United Nations system entities have reported various forms of financial support for NEPAD priority sectors and Africa's development. The table in the annex to the present report provides a detailed picture of the resources that United Nations system entities have allocated to Africa for the period 2006-2008.

C. Cross-cutting issues

85. The High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Africa's Development Needs was held on 22 September 2008. As the substantive office for the High-Level Meeting, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa prepared the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Africa's development needs: state of implementation of various commitments, challenges and the way forward" (A/63/130), which constituted the background document for the meeting. The report benefited from field consultations with the African Union Commission, the NEPAD and African Peer Review Mechanism secretariats, ECA and OECD.

86. The meeting also benefited from the coordinated engagement of the United Nations system entities through the Inter-Agency Task Force on Africa convened by the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa.[2] This coordinated response was demonstrated in both the inputs provided for the Secretary-General's report as well as the 15 side events co-organized by various United Nations entities.

87. The High-level Meeting adopted, by consensus, the political declaration on Africa's development needs (General Assembly resolution 63/1), which conveyed a strong signal of Africa's commitments to its future, and the renewal of the international community's partnership for Africa's development. The outcome of the meeting was submitted to several global forums, including the High-level Event on Millennium Development Goals, on 25 September 2008, the High Level Committee on Programmes, in October 2008, and the Africa Partnership Forum, in November 2008.

88. With the onset of the global economic and financial crises, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developed Countries and Small Island Developing Countries is making efforts to draw the attention of the international community to the negative impact of the global financial crisis on the development prospects of vulnerable countries, particularly those in Africa, and is planning a series of events and a specific analytical study to assess the changing global environment as it affects the least developed countries and spell out key transmission channels, including an analysis of the interrelationship with trends in energy prices, food security and climate change.

[2] UNDP seconded two policy advisers to the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to assist in the preparation of the meeting.

89. With the support of the African Union Commission and ECA, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa organized an expert group meeting in February 2009 at ECA headquarters, on Africa's cooperation with new and emerging development partners. Experts discussed the challenges and opportunities created by this cooperation and offered recommendations on how this partnership between Africa and the new and emerging partners could be further enhanced with a view to helping the African countries' attainment of development objectives. The recommendations will be incorporated into the study to be published by the Office of the Special Adviser by the end of 2009.

90. The United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research continues a research project designed to improve the capacity in Africa for assessing the impact of policy change at the level of individual households. Researchers in Botswana, Cameroon, Nigeria and Uganda were provided the technical assistance to build computer models that allow the impact of tax and transfer reform on income distribution and poverty to be simulated. This project has produced a website with user-friendly models where policymakers and others can experiment with the impacts of policy changes for these four countries and also for South Africa.

91. The United Nations University has initiated a UNU-Cornell Africa Series, aiming to map out, via a series of conferences, the state of scientific and policy knowledge. The Africa Series symposiums address issues concerning: food and nutrition, governance, HIV/AIDS and public health, environmental sustainability, and higher education. The Series brings together academic experts and practitioners on and from Africa, the United Nations, and civil society to discuss many of the major challenges facing Africa. The Series is undertaken in association with WFP, WHO, the World Bank, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, ECA and UNDP.

92. UNFPA supported the assessment of the state of African youth and the development of the African Youth Charter, which was approved by the African Ministers in charge of youth and was endorsed by the African Heads of State. To date, 16 countries have ratified the Charter and 30 countries have approved and signed it. It is expected that the Charter will come into force in 2009.

D. Challenges and constraints

93. While the last year has seen further improvements in strengthening the cluster system, challenges remain, including:

- Difficulties in reconciling the different priorities of cluster members with the priorities of the regional coordination mechanism
- The lack of financial and human resources specifically allocated to cluster activities hampers joint planning and programming as well as implementation of activities in the context of the clusters
- Monitoring and evaluation remains a challenge, especially since there is no formal accountability mechanism for the cluster members to the cluster.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

94. **Since the present report coincides with the eighth anniversary of the adoption of NEPAD, it is quite timely for entities of the United Nations system to develop an outcome-oriented monitoring approach whereby they could assess the impact of their support in the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD programme. A specific monitoring and evaluation framework should be operationalized within the framework of the regional coordination mechanism. While this framework would examine the effectiveness of United Nations system support, it could also develop strategies on how to address any effectiveness gaps.**

95. **As the implementation of the African Union/NEPAD programme is gaining momentum, it is crucial for United Nations entities to share experiences, good practices, and information on their current and planned activities. The knowledge-generation and networking platform established by the regional coordination mechanism secretariat provides a framework for further improvement in this area. Moreover, for better intra-cluster and inter-cluster coordination and collaboration, entities should set up predictable timetables for regular meetings.**

96. **Clusters should prepare and submit their respective business plans to be consolidated into one regional coordination mechanism business plan. The business plan would provide a clear direction for activities to be undertaken by the clusters to promote accountability and sharing of responsibilities, facilitate the mobilization of resources and enhance delivery and impact.**

97. **All United Nations system organizations should continue collaborating closely with the African Union Commission in the process of building on the alignment and harmonization of United Nations support with the African Union priorities and portfolios in support of the African Union/NEPAD programme.**

98. **In the context of the spillover effect of the global financial and economic crisis on African countries, United Nations entities should use this opportunity to further strengthen their inter-agency coordination and consultation in order to mitigate its impact on NEPAD priority sectors and the most vulnerable segments of the population. United Nations system agencies should also maintain critical social and development programmes, to monitor early warning signs that can outweigh the negative impact of the downturn.**

99. **Since Africa is highly exposed to the adverse impact of the current global crisis, the United Nations should use existing and innovative initiatives and mechanisms to mobilize additional financial resources and allocate more funding to Africa-related programmes. The newly mobilized resources could finance capacity-building programmes for African countries on the formulation and implementation of counter-cyclical policies and structural reforms in order to minimize the depth and length of the economic downturn and to save employment.**

100. **As private capital flows, remittances and official development aid to Africa are projected to be much lower in the next few years, the United Nations system should support the efforts of African Governments to improve the**

management, delivery, and efficient allocation of aid. The United Nations system should also assist African countries to enhance their capacity to further mobilize domestic resources.

Annex

United Nations system support for Africa: financial and staff resources devoted to Africa, 2006-2008

Entity		*Financial/staff resources (Thousands of United States dollars)*			*Africa's share of the organization's resources (percentage)*		
		2006	*2007*	*2008*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
1. Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat	Project spending	1 743	1 743	3 503			
	Staff resource (number of staff under regular budget)	45	45	47			
2. ECA[a]	Total, regular budget allotment under section 17	50 282	50 282	54 577			
	Total, regular budget allotment under section 11	644	644	774			
3. FAO	Total, field programme	151 200	196 700	274 400	33.6	38.9	40.4
	Emergency assistance	100 800	141 100	209 100	50.2	56.4	53.5
	Technical cooperation	50 400	55 600	65 300	20.2	21.8	22.6
4. IAEA	Technical cooperation fund	22 204	22 460	23 698			
	Extrabudgetary	2 372	2 797	3 051			
	Total, Technical Cooperation Programme	24 576	25 256	26 749	25.7	28.0	28.2
	Regular budget staff costs[b]	2 048	2 042	2 640			
5. ILO	Regular budget	26 489	26 489	29 711	8.9	8.9	9.3
	Portion of staff resources devoted to Africa (regular budget)	18 944	18 944	21 415	9.2	9.2	9.6
6. IMF	Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility loans	287 400	291 500	789 200	38.6	58.0	78.3
	Heavily indebted poor countries grants[c]	130 500	12 300	34 300	100	99.1	99.2
7. IMO	Financial resources	1 838	2 468	1 931			
	Staff resources (number of people)	16	16	17			
8. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights	Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division Africa unit	1 404	1 410	1 415[d]			
	Extrabudgetary field presence in Africa	10 929	15 894	12 171[d]			
	Regular budget offices in Africa	534	558	1 180[d]			
9. Office for the Special Adviser on Africa[e]	Financial resources	2 765	2 766	4 027	100	100	100
10. Peacebuilding Support Office	Peacebuilding Fund (grants to strategic project interventions)		48 025	36 698		100	97.9

Entity		Financial/staff resources (Thousands of United States dollars)			Africa's share of the organization's resources (percentage)		
		2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008
11. UNAIDS	Regional activities (including staff cost, operational budgets and regional activities)	14 600	15 000		8	11	
	Country activities	27 581	32 369		15	23	
12. UNCTAD[f]	Trust Fund expenditures for Africa	6 985	6 250	5 906[g]	19.8	19.8	15.8
	Country	5 057	3 079	4 059			
	Regional	1 928	3 171	1 847			
13. UNESCO	Total (extrabudgetary resources and regular programme)	34 917	34 562	38 416			
14. UN-Habitat	Policy and capacity-building activities			27 166			
15. UNICEF[g]	Total (programme and support budgets)	1 137 889	1 366 805	1 235 371[h]	48.5	49	50.5
	Total number of staff stationed in Africa	4 137	4 294	4 672			
16. UNIFEM	Financial resources	31 000	43 000	55 000	30	30	30
17. United Nations Office for Partnerships	Funded projects programmed through the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	50 752	7 129	16 268	19.2	17.6	57.4
	Funded projects programmed through the United Nations Democracy Fund	10 732	8 125		30.5	34	
18. United Nations University[i]	Resources for staff and academic activities	1 126	1 202	1 451	3.4	3.9	3
19. World Intellectual Property Organization[j]							
20. World Bank Group	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	40 000	38 000	30 000			
	International Development Association	4 747 000	5 760 000	5 657 000			

(Footnotes on following page)

(Footnotes to table)

Sources: Agencies, departments, programmes, funds and organizations of the United Nations system.

[a] Figures for 2006 and 2007 are an average for the two years.

[b] Includes amount for consultants but not support costs for staff of other IAEA departments assigned to the technical backstopping of technical cooperation projects.

[c] Includes interim assistance and/or disbursement at completion point.

[d] Figures are estimates or provisional, as indicated by the relevant agencies.

[e] As any office or department of the United Nations Secretariat, the budget of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa is on a biennial basis. Therefore, the data for 2006 and 2007 are half of the total expenditure for the biennium 2006-2007; data for 2008 are half of the appropriation for the current biennium.

[f] A total of $49,231,000 was spent for interregional trust fund projects from 2006-2008; about 30 per cent of that sum, or $14,769,000, can be added to Africa expenditures.

[g] Support budget for Africa takes into account half of the Middle East and North Africa Regional Office Support budget.

[h] 2008 expenditure as of November.

[i] The above figures are estimates and reflect only a part of the United Nations University's wide-ranging activities in support of Africa's development.

[j] It is difficult to give an overall amount but as far as the capacity for Africa is concerned, it has organized activities for a total amount of five million Swiss francs (in 2006, 2007 and 2008) and around 10 persons were in charge of executing this programme.